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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/712,544	11/14/2000	Tim W. Bray	20530/11	9220

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EXAMINER

PALADINI, ALBERT WILLIAM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2125

3

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/712,544

Applicant(s)

BRAY ET AL.

Examiner

Albert W Paladini

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 5 and 14-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 6-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.
2. Claims 14-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 14

Lines 3-4 recite

“designating at least one category for the map, where the step of designation comprising:

listing category metadata for each of the categories.”

It is not understood how “listing category metadata for each of the categories” results in “designating at least one category for the map.”

The second step of “defining a category bounds for each of the categories” does not appear to result in “designating at least one category for the map.”

Claim 18

Lines 3-4 recite, “describing what portion of the virtual space is shown by the map.” However, the statement recited in the preamble to independent claim 1 which is

"A method for describing a plurality of objects in a map of virtual space" implies that the map contains all of the virtual space, so that some subset of virtual space will be some subset of the map.

Appropriate correction and clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Koizumi (6692357).

Koizumi discloses a method for describing a plurality of objects in a map of virtual space including expressing a position for each of the objects in the virtual space using normal Cartesian coordinates, where detailed information about each object such as (say, jump, wall, scramble, door open and close, ladder, climb, etc.) is included. Koizumi states in column 8 on lines 9-33 "The image data area 23 includes, as shown in FIG. 5, two memory areas 23a and 23b. The memory area 23a is memorized with image data, such as coordinate data and animation data of a plurality of polygons, on an object-by-object basis, in order to display a player object, and with a display control program to display in a predetermined fixed position or movably an object. The memory area 23b is memorized with image data, such as a plurality of ones of polygon data and attribute data, on an object-by-object basis to display a land object, and with a display control program to display a land object. The attribute data includes an action code representative of an action to be performed by the player object (say, jump, wall scramble, door open and close, ladder climb, etc), a kind code representative of a kind of a land polygon (hole, ice, sand, lava, etc), a melody code representative of a kind of BGM, an enemy code representative whether an enemy is existing or not and an enemy kind, and a camera code to instruct switch between cameras. These codes are collectively referred to as "control codes". The control codes have been previously set within the polygon data of every polygon constituting the land objects to be set. Incidentally, the land objects required are considered to include a land object on which the player object is to exist, and a land object in the vicinity of which the player object is to exist, and so on."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koizumi (6692357) in view of Balabanovic (6624826).

Koizumi discloses a method for describing a plurality of objects in a map of virtual space including expressing a position for each of the objects in the virtual space using normal Cartesian coordinates, where detailed information about each object such as (say, jump, wall, scramble, door open and close, ladder, climb, etc.) is included. Koizumi does not disclose the URL objects and the XML protocol recite in claims 25-27.

Balabanovic discloses a method and apparatus for generating image representations for audio documents. Balabanovic uses URL's as the objects and XML protocol to describe the plurality of objects.

In order to enhance the communication capabilities through a web interface, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill to incorporate the teachings of Balabanovic with those of Koizumi. Balabanovic explains the motivation in column 9, lines 53+ where he states "Once the multimedia chronicle illustrated by FIG. 4A is created, user "A" may send the multimedia chronicle to another user via electronic mail. In one embodiment, in order to send the multimedia chronicle to another user, an XML representation of the multimedia chronicle (such as that shown in FIG. 3B) is created. The XML representation references the various electronic documents and audio clips by way of URL addresses that point to their stored location(s). In one embodiment, the contents of a multimedia chronicle may be transferred to and stored on a designated web server, whereas in another embodiment, the contents may be stored locally on the user's personal computer. In an intranet environment, for example, contents of a multimedia chronicle may reside upon a user's personal computer and yet be accessed by others through a web interface. Once an XML representation of the multimedia chronicle is created, a unique URL pointing to the XML representation is subsequently emailed to another user, say user "B".

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim s 3 and 6-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the references cited disclose or teach alone or in combination listing the page count, listing out and in links count, rating the objects, listing a logo, listing contact information, listing SIC codes, and trading symbols for a company combined with the method of describing a plurality of objects as recited in independent claim 1.

Relevant Prior Art

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Endo (6055563) discloses a method of displaying a virtual world in a client device based on Virtual-world-description data received from a server device which includes viewpoint information indicating a position of the viewpoint, an object description describing a first object, a second object, and an object description and a third object. Each object description includes coordinate-transformation information, a description of attributes, and a description of shape. The coordinate-transformation information defines a position of the object regarding where the object is located and how the object is placed, and represents relationships between the object coordinates and the world coordinates. The description of attributes defines attributes such as a color and texture with regard to each polygon making up the object. The description of shape includes coordinate information specifying a shape of each polygon making up the object, and, for example, includes three-dimensional coordinates of apexes of each polygon.

Weng (6081273) discloses a method and system for building virtual reality object models, which includes defining a point on the surface of the object as the origin of the object space and arbitrarily defining the x-y plane and the direction of x-axis in the x-y plane. Rotating the x-axis counterclockwise by 90. degrees in the x-y plane gives the y-axis. The z-axis is then in the direction along the vector cross-product of x- and y-axes. This defines the position and orientation of the coordinate system.

Tognazzini (6532021) discloses a system for imaging virtual objects where the computational activities permit imaging of the virtual object. A three-dimensional wire frame with rendering information is downloaded from a source (such as the World Wide Web) in a standard graphic file format to the hand held computing device. Using the true physical dimensions of the object and the relative dimensions of the wire frame (all of which are included as metadata in the graphics file), one determines the scaling factor.

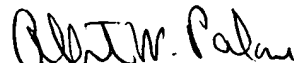
Keith discloses a system for discerning and displaying relational structures and similarities among selected objects from a group where entity Descriptions can include text data, hyperlinks and Uniform Resource Locator (URL) links to original data sources represented by the Entities, or any other electronically-presentable type of data associated with the Entity.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be direct to Albert W. Paladini whose telephone number is (703) 308-2005. The examiner can normally be reached from 7:30 to 3:30 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Leo P. Picard, can be reached on (703) 308-0538. The official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

March 22, 2004


Albert W. Paladini
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2125